

R-220



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2000

POLICY

19 SEP 1986

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President, Rockefeller University
Suite 115
1230 York Avenue
New York NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg

This letter is to follow-up my phone call to you regarding the Commission that is being established to help shape an integrated long-term defense strategy for the United States.

This Commission will report to the Secretary of Defense and to the President's National Security Advisor. It is intended that it will have about twelve members, and that Albert Wohlstetter and I will co-chair it. In addition to yourself, the following individuals have agreed to serve: Ann Armstrong, Zbigniew Brzezinski, William P. Clark, Andrew J. Goodpaster, Samuel P. Huntington, Henry A. Kissinger, Bernard A. Schriever, and John W. Vessey. One or two members may yet be added.

Several issues now confronting us have prompted the decision to establish this Commission. We need to update the strategic rationale that guides the Defense Department's R&D efforts on offensive and defensive systems. To this end, a long-term perspective is essential, not only because of the enduring arms competition with the Soviet Union, but also because of the long life cycle of military systems from initial R&D to final phase-out. Overly narrow concepts of "stability" need to be replaced with more realistic and differentiated strategic objectives, applicable to a wide range of contingencies. Controlling the scope and intensity of warfare in all circumstances is a particularly important objective in the nuclear age. Given the fact that our security depends in many ways on allies, both in Europe and the Pacific, our offensive and defensive military systems must be designed to serve a coherent alliance strategy. Furthermore, an important new factor, not yet adequately integrated into our defense policy, is the wide range of technological contributions that can flow from the Strategic Defense Initiative.

We intend to pull together the best studies and data available within the Defense Department and the intelligence community, so as to synthesize facts and issues that should be helpful to the Commission. Thus, the Commission would have the benefit

of unusual in-depth support and comprehensive access to all the relevant information. The schedule we would propose is to issue a brief interim report by the end of this year and a final report by the end of next year. The Commission will be discontinued in 1988.

Given the rather substantial support structure that will be provided for this effort, the work load for the Commission members ought to be relatively light--perhaps one or two meetings in 1986 and three to four meetings in 1987. In addition, Albert Wohlstetter and I look forward to meeting with you separately, to have the full benefit of your thinking and to ameliorate scheduling problems.

We will be in touch with your office regarding the scheduling of the first meeting and will send a brief summary soon on the supportive research effort that has been started. To set up the Commission in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, certain requirements will have to be met, including--alas--that you fill out some forms. But I believe you may have previously completed the required forms because of your membership on other advisory committees.

Cap Weinberger and John Poindexter deeply appreciate that you are willing to participate in this important undertaking. I am confident that the result of our effort will be of great value, not only to the Defense Department, but also to the President and to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred", written in a cursive style.

Fred C. Ikle